This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) Lactic acid menthyl ester, mechanically compressed with a force within the range of 10-100 kN to produce compacts, wherein the lactic acid menthyl ester content ~~in~~ within the compact is at least 95 wt. % ~~(m/m)~~.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein said lactic acid menthyl ester is ~~l-lactic acid l-menthyl ester~~ L-lactic acid L-menthyl ester.

5. (Currently Amended) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein said compact is formed by a process comprising mechanical compression of a force preasure within the range of 30-80 kN of flaked lactic acid menthyl ester.

6. (Currently Amended) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein said compacts after compression exhibit a mechanically formed shape ~~exhibiting the form~~ of spheres, cubes, cuboids, cushions, cylinders, tablets, pellets, or briquettes.

7. (Withdrawn) A method for the preparation of lactic acid menthyl ester compacts according to claim 1, by compressing flaked lactic acid menthyl ester having a purity of at least 95% (m/m) in a compactor.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said lactic acid menthyl ester is l-lactic acid l-menthyl ester is used.

11. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in Claim 7, wherein said compact is formed by a process comprising compression of ingredients and the compression is carried out using a pressing force in the range of 10 - 100 kN.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein the compacts do not contain an alkali metal and/or alkaline earth metal carbonate and/or bicarbonate.

14. (New) The mechanically compressed compacts as in Claim 1, wherein the compacts do not contain an inorganic salt stabilizer.

15. (New) The compressed compacts according to Claim 14, wherein said compacts can be stored for at least six months without change in acid number or odor.

16. (New) The compressed compacts according to Claim 15, wherein said compacts are dimensionally stable and do not exhibit agglomeration, caking, or intergrowth after prolonged storage.